

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 MCT-01 SSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /059 W

-----051616 050423Z /23

O R 050300Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4768

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSO

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FOR ACTION OFFICE OPENING BUSINESS JULY 5

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ES

SUBJECT: ROMERO GOVERNMENT INSTALLED

1. THE INAUGURATION ON JULY 1 OF THE NEW GOES, HELED BY CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERON WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, BUT UNDER EYREMEY HEAVY SECURITY PROTECTION. THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN THE NATIONAL GYMNASIUM WAS ATTENDED BY SPECIAL MISSIONS REPRESENTING FORTY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, WITH THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AND PANAMANIAN DELEGATIONS HEADED UP BY THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE NICARAGUAN, COSTA RICAN AND GUATEMALAN DEFENSE MINISTERS WERE ALSO ON THE DELEGATIONS. HONDURAS DID NOT PARTICIPATE. MOST OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC CHIEF-OF-MISSION, AND OTHER

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EMBASSY OFFICERS. THE ONLY PUBLIC ORDER LAPSE DURING THE THREE DAYS OF LOW-PROFILE OFFICIAL CELEBRATING WAS BOMB DAMAGE TO TWO GOVERNMENT-CONNECTED STRUCTURES IN SANTA ANA AT 3 AM OF JUNE 30. THERE WERE NO REPORTED INJURIES.

2. PRESIDENT ROMERO HAS MADE TWO PUBLIC UTTERANCES

IN HIS FIRST HOURS IN OFFICE, A FORTY-FIVE MINUTE INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN THE GYMNASIUM AND AN OPEN PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN AND NATIONAL REPORTERS ON SATURDAY, JULY 2. THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS CONFINED ITSELF TO PROMISES OF TOTAL COMMITMENT OF THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF ALL SALVADORANS, THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF THE REGIME AND ALL SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY. WHEREAS PRESIDENT MOLINA'S FIVE YEARS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY THE SLOGAN QTE DEFINITION, DECISION AND FAIRNESS UNQTE, ROMERO'S FIRST SPEECH AS PRESIENT PROMISED A REGIME DEDICATED TO QTE HONEST, PEACE AND LABOR UNQTE.

3. THE PRESIENT'S INAUGURAL WAS INTERCEPTED BY THE CARE-FULLY SCREENED CROWD'S APPLAUSE IN THE GYNASIUM SOME FIFTEEN TIMES. MOST WAS PERFUNCTORY. THE LINE THAT RECEIVED THE BEST HAND WAS IN THE SECTION TITLED QTE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BASED ON RESEPCT AND DIGNITY UNQTE. HE STATED QTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO RESPECT THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINIES AND, IN PURSUIT OF THAT PRINCIPLE, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT OTHERE STATES INTERVENE IN AFFAIRS THAT ARE OF THE EXLUSIVE COMPETENCY OF THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY UNQTE.

4. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THE NEXT DAY ROMERO MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:  
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(A) THE PROMPT AND TOTAL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH HONDURAS IS A QTE PRIMORDIAL UNQTE GOAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE INVITED PRESIDENT MELGAR TO COME TO EL SALVADOR TO GET TO KNOW PERSONALLY ITS PEOPLE AND GOOD INTENTIONS. (NOTE: IN THE INAUGURAL, ROMERO PROMISED QTE NOT TO SACRIFICE U BIT OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY OR OF OUR COUNTRY...UNQTE); (B) THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND STATE (NOTE: ONLY THREE CHURCHMEN PARTICIPATED IN THE INAUGURATION; IE NUNCIO, THE BISHOP OF SAN MIGUEL WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY CHAP-LAIN SYSTEM, AND THE RETIRING BISHOP OF SANTA ANAL HBRYCL AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION IS NOT DEAD AND WILL BE PURSUED BECAUSE IT IS AN URGENT NECESSITY; (D) ALL OPPOSITION POLITICIANS WHO DEPARTED AFTER ELECTIONS AND WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY ARE FREE TO DO SO. (NOTE: HE EMPHASIZED ALL WHO HAD DEPARTED DID SO VOLUNATRILY. WORDING OF HIS STATEMENT SEEMED PURPOSELY TO EXCLUDE RETURN OF NAPOLEON DUARTE.); AND (E) ROMERO DENIED THAT THERE EXISTS ANY ESTRANGEMENT OR TENSENESS IN GOES RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

5. COMMENT. BOTH DURING THE OFFICIAL CEREMONIES AND IN CONNECTED SOCIAL EVENTS, GENERAL ROMERO,

HIS NEW CABINET AND OTHER ADVISORS WENT OUT OF  
THEIR WAY TO STRESS THAT THIS REPRESENTS A FRESH  
START, AND THAT THE ROMERO REGIME ESPECIALLY WANTS  
TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH THE USG. ON 4 JULY NEW  
FOREIGN MINISTER, SUBSECRETARY AND DIRECTOR PROTOCOL  
MADE SPECIAL CALL ON CHARGE' BEFORE NOON-TIME RECEPTION  
TO SAY MORE OR LESS THE SAME.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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